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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/831,322	08/15/2001	Thomas Klotz	KLOTZ (PCT)	2585
25889	7590	01/25/2005	EXAMINER	
WILLIAM COLLARD COLLARD & ROE, P.C. 1077 NORTHERN BOULEVARD ROSLYN, NY 11576			DINH, DUC Q	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
				2674

DATE MAILED: 01/25/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/831,322	KLOTZ, THOMAS	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	DUC Q DINH	2674	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 September 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 25-28,31,32,36-40,42,44,47 and 48 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 25-28,31,32,36-40,42,44,47 and 48 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This is response to the Amendment Filed on September 28, 2004.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 25-28 and 31-32, 36-40, 42, 44, 47-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Claims 47-47 recited the limitations: “nonapparatus-specific flat display screen” and “nonapparatus-specific software”. Although the specification does mention that graphics generated with commercially available software can be generated on the display screen (specification page 7), there is no support for the limitation: ““nonapparatus-specific flat display screen” and “nonapparatus-specific software” so that the individual areas dynamically indicate different functional states of a connected device including a TV-screen at the same time. The specification in page 7 only cites that “It is advantage also, furthermore, if a moving television image is blended into the surface or the screen instead of the graphics.

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 25-28 and 31-32, 36-40, 42, 44,47-48 provides for the use of “a connected device including a TV-screen”, but, since the claim does not set forth any steps involved in the method/process, it is unclear what method/process applicant is intending to encompass. A claim is indefinite where it merely recites a use without any active, positive steps delimiting how this use is actually practiced.

The examiner examines the application based on the best understood of the claim language.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 25-26, 28 and 31-32, 36-40, 42, 47-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jagger et al. (U. S. Patent No. 5,841,428), hereinafter Jagger 428', in view of Jagger (U. S. Patent No. 5,977,955), hereinafter Jagger 955'.

In reference to claims 47 and 48, Jagger 428' discloses in Fig. 3 a rotary circuit control device with changeable graphic having a flat panel display 16 (corresponding to flat panel display device), cover plate 28 (corresponding to the attachment) that receives the rotary knob 12 (corresponding to the switching/controlling element) as claimed (col.7, lines 11-45). In addition, Jagger 428' discloses that the cover plate 28 (add-on) is transparent and covers the display 16 (col. 7, lines 46-50).

Jagger 428' discloses that the display is divided to multiple areas with the plurality of areas relating to at least one transparent region and of which at least one area is arranged radically relative to the electrical control device 12 (Fig. 2, col. 7, lines 12-19).

Accordingly, Jagger 428' discloses everything except creating visible areas on the flat display using a commercially available software so that the individual areas dynamically indicates different functional states of a connected device at the same time.

Jagger 955' discloses a control device including a display screen divided into plurality of areas. Screen 36 in this particular example of the invention is a liquid crystal display but may also be of any of the other known types of flat panel display that generate changeable images in response to signals received from a display controller 38 through a multi-conductor bus 39. The controller 38 may be of any of the known designs and in many cases is an internal component of a computer.

Jagger 955' discloses that the flat panel display controllers which are a component of the above described embodiments of the invention may be of the known designs. Such controllers are available commercially along with instructions for programming desired graphics. As will be apparent from the foregoing, the graphics which are appropriate to different embodiments of the invention may take diverse different forms (col. 15, lines 20-34).

Furthermore, changing of the graphics 33 as depicted in FIG. 3 may variously be initiated by programming, by actuation of another device such as a code key on a keyboard (not shown) or in response to operation of the control device 12, 13, 14 or 16 with which the graphics are associated (see Fig. 3, col. 7, lines 29-42).

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to provide the teaching of Jagger 955', i.e.: indicating the different functional condition on the areas, in the device of Jagger 428' for providing visually feedback for the operator i.e.: the control means enable display of different information pertaining to the component at different times at the same location adjacent to the component (Jagger 955', col. 2, lines 63-65).

In addition, Fig. 18 of Jagger 955' shows a connected device, i.e.: Radio, having station information display, of the broadcasted AM Radio station KCBS-740 AM (Radio station screen), for example, on the display screen.

It would have been also obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to learn the teaching of Jagger 955', i.e.: display a broadcaster screen, in the display device for accurately indicating that the desired station has been selected.

In reference to claim 25, Jagger 428' discloses that a cathode ray tube display is used for the image display (col. 3, lines 13-15).

In reference to claim 26, Jagger 955' discloses an operator/circuit interface with integrated display screen having screen 36 in this particular example of the invention is a liquid crystal display but may also be of any of the other known types of flat panel display that generate changeable images in response to signals received from a display controller 38 through a multi-conductor bus 39.

In reference to claim 28, Jagger 428' discloses the cover plate 28 is a cover the flat surface of the display (see Fig. 3).

In reference to claim 31, Jagger 428' discloses that the knob 12 is a rotary control as claimed (see Fig. 2).

In reference to claim 32, Jagger 428' discloses in FIGS. 16 and 17 again has a turnable knob 12f snap engaged on an annular base member 31f which is bonded to the transparent cover plate 28f of a flat panel display 16f within the image display area in the manner previously described. A small integrated circuit board or chip 98 is adhered to the surface of cover plate 28f within the base member 31f (see Fig. 16-17).

In reference to claim 36, Jagger 428' discloses that the graphic display 16 indicates the switching condition in Fig. 2.

In reference to claim 37, Jagger 955' discloses that changing of the graphics 33 as depicted in FIG. 3 may variously be initiated by programming, by actuation of another device such as a code key on a keyboard (not shown) or in response to operation of the control device 12, 13, 14 or 16 with which the graphics are associated (col. 7, lines 34-40).

In reference to claim 38, Jagger 428' discloses that the transparent cover plate 28 which may be glass or clear plastic (col. 7, lines 30-31).

In reference to claim 39 Jagger 428' and 955' fails to disclose that the add-on component is made of metal. Absent a showing of critically and/or unexpected result, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use preferred materials as desired as was judicially recognized with IN RE ALLER, 105 USPQ 233 (CCPA 1955), which recognizes that the use of preferred materials of well known element is normally not desired toward patentable subject matter.

In reference to claims 40 and 42, Jagger 955' discloses in Fig. 3 that the display 34 having switching elements 12,14,16 having breakthrough 37 and plurality windows 33 as claimed

7. Claims 27 and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jagger 428', Jagger 955' and further in view of Levin et al. (U. P. Patent No. 6,154,201).

In reference to claims 27 and 44, Jagger discloses everything except the display is an LED or plasma. Levin et al. discloses a control knob having a display for providing an image updated in response to manipulation of the knob. displaying a graphical user. Display 14 can be any suitable display device, such as an LED display, LCD display, gas plasma display, CRT, or other device. In some embodiments, display 14 can include a touch-sensitive surface to allow a user to touch displayed images directly on the display 14 to select those images and an associated setting or function (col. 5, lines 10-15).

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to provide the LED or Plasma display device of Levin in the device of Jagger for providing a display with higher resolution for display information for the system.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments filed on September 28, 2004 page 6-14 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. With respect to the Argument "none of the cited references teaches the integration of a normal TV picture into the screen image which necessary is dynamic nor the use of no-device specific software and a non-device specific flat panel display" See the 112

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Rejection for the newly added limitations of “nonapparatus-specific flat display, Non apparatus specific software and a connected display screen including a display screen”, See the new 112 rejection above. Therefore, the rejection is maintained.

9. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Conclusion

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **DUC Q DINH** whose telephone number is **(703) 306-5412**. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri from 8:00.AM-4:00.PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **RICHARD A HJERPE** can be reached on **(703) 305-4709**.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

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Or faxed to:

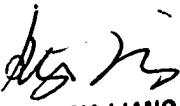
(703) 872-9314 (for Technology Center 2600 only)

Hand-delivery response should be brought to: Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive,
Arlington, Va Sixth Floor (Receptionist)

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding
should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone
number is (703) 306-0377.

DUC Q DINH
Examiner
Art Unit 2674

DQD
January 12, 2005


REGINA LIANG
PRIMARY EXAMINER